

Pupil premium strategy statement – Sheffield Springs Academy

This statement details our school's use of pupil premium funding to help improve the attainment of our disadvantaged pupils.

It outlines our pupil premium strategy, how we intend to spend the funding in this academic year and the outcomes for disadvantaged pupils last academic year.

School overview

Detail	Data
Number of pupils in school	1090
Proportion (%) of pupil premium eligible pupils	60.37%
Academic year/years that our current pupil premium strategy plan covers (3-year plans are recommended – you must still publish an updated statement each academic year)	2024/2025 to 2027/2028
Date this statement was published	19/12/2025
Date on which it will be reviewed	01/09/2026
Statement authorised by	Claire Cartledge (Principal)
Pupil premium lead	Abdullah Awan
Governor / Trustee lead	Deborah Fitzgerald

Funding overview

Detail	Amount
Pupil premium funding allocation this academic year	£660,050
Pupil premium funding carried forward from previous years (<i>enter £0 if not applicable</i>)	£0
Total budget for this academic year <i>If your school is an academy in a trust that pools this funding, state the amount available to your school this academic year</i>	£660,050

Part A: Pupil premium strategy plan

Statement of intent

The pupil premium strategy at Sheffield Springs Academy aims to support all eligible pupils in achieving the very best outcomes. It is underpinned by our belief that every child, regardless of background, can and should achieve their full potential and they must be supported to have high aspirations for their future.

The aim of our strategy is to remove any barriers that stand in the way of academic and personal success. We believe that social and financial disadvantage should never adversely affect a pupil's life chances or prevent them from pursuing a career or education pathway of their choice. Ensuring that all disadvantaged students have access to a challenging, academic curriculum and the highest quality of teaching is central to this.

Our pupil premium strategy is a tiered approach that focuses on effective teaching, targeted academic support, and wider strategies. Our approach is based upon evidence-based strategies and will use effective assessment systems to monitor and evaluate the impact of our actions to support disadvantaged students. Careful tracking and monitoring against high expectations will be a core part of ensuring our strategy is successful.

We believe that supporting disadvantaged pupils is everyone's role at Sheffield Springs Academy. By taking a whole school approach to the delivery of this Pupil Premium strategy, all staff will be aware of the role they are required to play to help address the progress and attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students.

The strategy will enable us to prioritise the social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs of our students and will ensure that they feel safe, valued, and supported on their journey to success. In turn, students will be more likely to attend school, receive more rewards and succeed academically. Likewise, our plans to continue to widen the provision around careers and 'cultural capital' opportunities will help to raise aspirations and improve future post-16 destinations our disadvantaged students.

Through the provision of high-quality teaching, effective support, and accessible enrichment opportunities, we hope to ensure that all disadvantaged students at Sheffield Springs Academy develop into successful and happy adults who demonstrate our values of respect, excellence, ambition, and pride throughout their lives.

Challenges

This details the key challenges to achievement that we have identified among our disadvantaged pupils.

Challenge number	Detail of challenge
1	Attendance of disadvantaged pupils is below that of their non-disadvantaged peers, persistent absence is higher amongst disadvantaged pupils.
2	Disadvantaged pupils account for a disproportionate number of fixed term suspensions.
3	Disadvantaged pupils are disproportionately represented in safeguarding concerns dealt with by the academy.
4	There is a stubborn outcome gap at GCSE in almost all subjects between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers. Disadvantaged pupils also enter KS3 with lower levels of literacy and numeracy which contributes and widens the gap.
5	A disproportionately high number of disadvantaged students have lower aspirations and lower expectations for post-16 pathways than their non-disadvantaged peers.

Intended outcomes

This explains the outcomes we are aiming for **by the end of our current strategy plan**, and how we will measure whether they have been achieved.

Intended outcome	Success criteria
Attendance of disadvantaged pupils is at least in line with that of their non-disadvantaged peers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disadvantaged pupils' attendance improves year on year and is in-line with non-disadvantaged pupils. Disadvantaged pupils' persistent absence reduces year on year.
Disadvantaged pupils account for a proportionate number of fixed term suspensions and number of incidents are reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed term suspensions should account for a proportionate % of overall suspensions. Fixed term suspensions should reduce year on year.
Disadvantaged pupils are proportionately represented in safeguarding concerns and issues are proactively dealt with.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The academy engages with all external agencies. Disadvantaged pupils are supported to access a full educational offer. Wellbeing support and counselling is readily available to those in need.
An improvement in the attainment and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attainment of disadvantaged pupils should be in line with non-disadvantaged peers.

progress of disadvantaged pupils, and a narrowing of the gap between them and their peers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of disadvantaged students attaining at 4+ and 5+ in English and Maths improves year-on-year and is in line with non-disadvantaged students and national averages. • Improved levels of literacy and numeracy in KS3.
Increased aspirations and expectations for post-16 pathways for disadvantaged pupils in line with their peers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of disadvantaged students access careers advice from year 7 and in all other years. • 100% of disadvantaged pupils complete post-16 applications. • 100% of disadvantaged students go into a sustained post-16 education.

Activity in this academic year

This details how we intend to spend our pupil premium funding **this academic year** to address the challenges listed above.

Teaching (for example, CPD, recruitment and retention)

Budgeted cost: £220,243.25

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
A Pupil Premium Creative Teaching Fund is available for departments to place bids and provide a rationale around resources or visitors tailored to the needs and improved outcomes of the PP cohort in their subject area. (£20000)	Mastery learning +3 months (EEF toolkit).	1, 4
To deploy a KS3 Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinator to lead on intervention needs for PP students in KS3 to enhance decoding, comprehension, expressive writing and numeracy skills. (£40,954)	Overarching literacy interventions have +5 months and maths + 3-month impact (EEF toolkit).	3 ,4
To use TAs/HLTAs to support the literacy and progress of our PP SEND	To use HLTAs to support the literacy and progress of our PP SEND students across both KS3 and KS4.	1-4

students across both KS3 and KS4. (£79,520.25)		
To deliver quality CPD to improve quality of teaching and learning to accelerate student progress. Subject specific CPD and CPD for non-specialists. (£12000)	Mastery learning +3 months (EEF toolkit).	3- 4
To improve the subject knowledge of teaching and support staff via CPD both internally and via courses such as Early Careers Mentoring, NPQSL, NPQML, etc. (£12000)	Metacognition and self-regulation have a 7+ month impact (EEF toolkit).	1-5
To use the Birmingham SEND and EAL Toolkit to ensure appropriate provision is used to accelerate progress in language, literacy and maths combined. (£250)	Small group tuition has a 4+ month impact (EEF toolkit).	1- 4
To utilise a trained librarian and resources to support the improvement of literacy (to include parental engagement on reading progress). To use the D.E.A.R and weekly form-time oracy session to engage students in reading for pleasure. (£19529)	Metacognition and self-regulation have a 7+ month impact (EEF toolkit).	4
To use a percentage of the SLT maths lead salary to improve mathematics attainment and progress across KS3 and KS4. (£35990)	Social and emotional learning has an impact equivalent to +4 months (EEF toolkit). "Small group tuition has a 4+ month impact (EEF toolkit). Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit)" Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit)/	1-5

Targeted academic support (for example, tutoring, one-to-one support, structured interventions)

Budgeted cost: £215,059.75

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
<p>To provide targeted out of hours school-led academic tutoring (including Saturday and half-term school) for English, maths, and science, especially around the grade 3-4 and 4-5 borderline. (£24000)</p>	<p>Small group tuition has a 4+ month impact (EEF toolkit) Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit)</p>	3,4
<p>To run a targeted summer school to support student outcomes. (£5000)</p>		
<p>Run Lexonik Leap (phonics) and Lexonik Advance (fluency and comprehension) by highly trained members of staff. (£18000)</p>	<p>Many reading strategies have very high impacts in the EEF toolkit. E.g., Reading comprehension strategies have a 6+ month impact.</p>	3, 4
<p>To improve the aspirations of our PP students via an Aspirations Programme. (£1000)</p>	<p>Students' interests and aspirations are assessed and collated, allowing leaders to plan career events, co-curricular clubs and form time sessions which support students in achieving their goals and are tailored to the year group's interests.</p>	3, 4
<p>To use data efficiently to ensure PP students are tracked and interventions put in place accordingly. Data team contribution. (£58000)</p>	<p>Contribution towards provision of enhanced data team in order that greater depth of analysis can be carried out to support teachers' understanding of the progress being made by disadvantaged students and to analyse their areas for improvement, better informing subsequent interventions.</p>	3, 4
<p>Run funded targeted intervention residential for English, maths, and science (Conway/Kingswood, etc). To subsidise music, arts and sport lessons for engagement in wider skills</p>	<p>Case studies in the "EEF guide to the pupil premium" highlight the positive impact of enrichment activities on disadvantaged student progress.</p> <p>Arts/Sports participation has a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit).</p>	1-5

and enjoyment of learning. (£18500)		
To use a percentage of the PP (SLT) salary to review data, gaps, interventions, meet students and co-ordinate interventions. (£80240)	Social and emotional learning has an impact equivalent to +4 months (EEF toolkit). "Small group tuition has a 4+ month impact (EEF toolkit). Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit)""Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit)/	1-5
Implement 'Raising achievement for Disadvantaged Strategy', to effectively support PP pupils in the classroom. (£10,319.75)	The best available evidence indicates that great teaching is the most important lever schools have to improve pupil attainment. Ensuring every teacher is supported in delivering high-quality teaching is essential to achieving the best outcomes for all pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged among them.	4

Wider strategies (for example, related to attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

Budgeted cost: £224,747

Activity	Evidence that supports this approach	Challenge number(s) addressed
To reduce absence rates in PP students via an attendance support team and targeted attendance interventions. (£80000)	Embedding principles of good practice set out in DfE's Improving School Attendance advice.	1, 2
To improve the Health and Wellbeing of our PP and vulnerable students via a Wellbeing Officer x2. (£35774)	Social and emotional learning has an impact equivalent to +4 months (EEF toolkit). Parental engagement is vital and has a +5 month impact (EEF toolkit).	1, 5
To provide a Hardship Fund for PP families who need imminent help with basic needs such as food, clothing or electricity and gas tokens. (£3500)	Parental engagement is vital and has a +5 month impact (EEF toolkit) Our experiences and those of similar schools to ours have identified a need to set a small amount of funding aside to respond quickly to needs that have not yet been identified.	1-2
To engage students in the 'Medical Mavericks' Programme to widen aspirational careers around the NHS and STEM. (£1500)	The Good Career Guidance Report (Gatsby, 2013) out-lines the importance of providing high quality careers guidance to disadvantaged student aspiration.	1, 2, 5
To support nutrition and concentration prior to KS4 exams and morning interventions by providing breakfast. (£2000)	There is significant evidence breakfasts lead to improved academic performance – for example Adolphus et al., 2013.	1, 2, 4
To provide GCSE revision guides and equipment to support outcomes via revision and home learning. (£12000)	Homework/home learning has a 5+ month impact (EEF toolkit). Mastery learning +3 months (EEF toolkit).	2, 3,4

To budget for PP rewards and incentives that include their areas of interest (student voice). (£1000)	Our whole-school rewards scheme is built from student voice and incentivises all pupils to demonstrate our core values each day.	1, 2, 5
To improve the aspirations of our PP students through high quality CEIAG. (£53,417)	The Good Career Guidance Report (Gatsby, 2013) out-lines the importance of providing high quality careers guidance to disadvantaged student aspiration.	1, 4, 5
To close the attainment gap of a targeted group of PP students via a range of workshops/intervention such as the Unravel scheme, SYF mentoring and Golddigger to help remove emotional barriers and inspire positive change. (£8000)	Social and emotional learning has an impact equivalent to +4 months (EEF toolkit). "Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit).	3, 4
To use extra-curricular scholarship fund to support wider careers and aspirations. (£500)	Subsidies for disadvantaged students and funding towards projects, which provides competitive events for 'more able' disadvantaged students such as 'spelling bee' and 'university challenge' in conjunction with other United Learning academies as well as social and cultural activities such as theatre and ballet trips, reading groups and visits to aspirational employers (such as HSBC / Santander / Lloyds in the City of London). Includes inviting guest speakers.	5
To create cultural capital extra-curricular opportunities such as visits to the theatre, sporting events and overseas trips. (£5000)	Arts/Sports participation has a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit) Case studies in the "EEF guide to the pupil premium" highlight the positive impact of enrichment activities on disadvantaged student progress.	3, 4

To support staffing additional learning sessions (Saturdays - not small group). (£9000)	Small group tuition has a 4+ month impact (EEF toolkit)/ Extending school time (after school interventions) have a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit).	3-4
To participate in the SSEL P and Learn Sheffield collaborative provision around sharing good leadership and school initiatives to inspire transformational change. (£3540)	Overarching literacy interventions have +5 months and maths + 3-month impact (EEF toolkit).	1- 4
To use 'Links' to provide a personalised curriculum for vulnerable students. (£8016)	Arts/Sports participation has a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit). Case studies in the “EEF guide to the pupil premium” highlight the positive impact of enrichment activities on disadvantaged student progress. Arts/Sports participation has a 3+ month impact (EEF toolkit).	1 - 4
Purchase of Sparx Maths, Sparx Reader and Sparx science. (£1500)	Evidence shows through a ‘Growth mindset’ approach of continued effort and practice then improvement will be made. Quality homework at secondary shown to have moderate impact (EEF)	4

Total budgeted cost: £660,050

Part B: Review of the previous academic year

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

- Despite improving in percentage from last year, the 2025 outcomes showed a significant gap between disadvantaged pupils and their non-disadvantaged peers in the attainment of grade 4+ and 5+ in both English and maths.
- Disadvantaged pupils A8 increased at the Academy but is still considerably less compared to their peers nationally and locally.
- 2025 results showed that disadvantaged pupils received a lower P8 score compared to their peers in school, and a P8 score that was significantly below their peers nationally.
- Disadvantaged pupils' attendance percentage has increased but is still lower in comparison to all their peers.
- The percentage of persistent absence in disadvantaged pupils has reduced but is still at a higher rate than their peers.

Externally provided programmes

Programme	Provider
STEM and NHS Careers workshops/online package	The 'Medical Mavericks'
English and maths academic mentoring	Sheffield Springs Academy
Mentoring	Unravel
Mentoring	SYF
Mentoring	Golddigger
Emotional wellbeing mentoring	United Learning funded counselling and therapeutic